

B6195

1.984

cop. 3

ANNUAL REPORT

S. C. STATE LIBRARY

JAN 25 1985

STATE DOCUMENTS

**SOUTH CAROLINA
COMMISSION
FOR THE BLIND**

Fiscal Year 1983-84

**Printed Under the Direction of the
State Budget and Control Board**

ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

Fiscal Year 1983-84

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Letter of Transmittal	2
Commission Board	3
Administration	4
Vocational Rehabilitation	5
a. Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center	
b. Business Enterprise Program	
c. Blindcraft (Home Industries)	
Prevention of Blindness	7
Special Services	8
Financial Statement	10
Organizational Chart	11
Assistance Directory	12

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind is in compliance with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and all requirements imposed pursuant thereto to the end that no person shall, on the grounds of sex, race, age, color, national origin, or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the provision of any care or service. Any client participant, potential client, or interested person who is of an opinion that benefits are provided on a discriminatory basis has the right to file a complaint with the State Agency or Federal Agency, or both.

LEGAL BLINDNESS QUALIFICATIONS

1. Legal blindness shall be defined as a level of central visual acuity, 20/200 or less in the better eye with the best corrective lens available, or a disqualifying field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees and which is sufficient to incapacitate one for self-support, or an 80 percent loss of visual efficiency resulting from visual impairment in more than one function of the eye, including visual acuity for distance and near visual fields, ocular mobility, and other ocular functions and disturbances.
2. "Severe visual disability" is defined as any progressive pathological condition of the eye or eyes supported by an acceptable eye examination, which in the opinion of the examiner may or will result in legal blindness within 24 months.

June 30, 1984

The Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Governor Riley:

As my retirement from State Services is effective June 30, 1984, it is with both pleasure and pride that I submit to you this Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1983-1984.

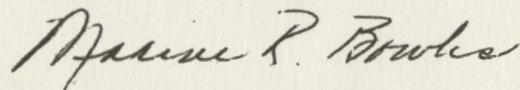
It has been a progressive and productive year for our Agency and one that has been a period of stabilization following the recessionary recovery from the past two to three years. Services have been provided to blind citizens of our State in a commendable manner and pursuit was undertaken to open new avenues of employment in the field of high technology for clients who expressed interest. This area of work is affording potential job opportunities for our blind citizens that has never been available before, and we have experienced excellent working relationships with other state agencies in this endeavor.

One group of individuals whom we have not been able to provide services to as we would have liked is that of the elderly blind. Efforts will be under way, however, to develop programs for providing these much needed and increasing numbers of requests for services.

We are deeply grateful for your resolute leadership and sincere interest in our work and the loyal support of the General Assembly for enabling the South Carolina Commission for the Blind to continue toward its goal of becoming the leading state agency in the nation for providing services to blind citizens.

Most sincerely,

S.C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND



Maxine R. Bowles
Commissioner

COMMISSION BOARD

1. Mr. Allan C. Mustard Columbia
(Chairman — 2nd Congressional District)
2. Clay W. Evatt, Jr., M.D. Charleston
(Vice-Chairman — 1st Congressional District)
3. Mrs. Earlene Gardner Aiken
(Secretary — 3rd Congressional District)
4. Mr. Robert R. Bell Laurens
(5th Congressional District)
5. Mrs. Mattie B. Gatlin North Charleston
(Member-at-Large)
6. Mrs. Patricia L. Patrick Darlington
(6th Congressional District)
7. Mr. Samuel L. Zimmerman Greenville
(4th Congressional District)

ADMINISTRATION

The ADMINISTRATION of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind (SCCB) continued to concentrate its efforts during the fiscal year 1983-1984 on meeting as many needs and providing as many services as possible to legally blind and visually impaired citizens of South Carolina.

One of the primary concerns of Administration during fiscal year 1983-1984 has been to develop a Comprehensive Management Information System. This type of information system would increase the productivity and efficiency of an agency such as SCCB. Financial and client information could be integrated into an easily accessible system. This system would also provide for the production of reports in braille and large print on a timely basis.

The SCCB requested and received approval from the State Division of Information Resources Management and the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration to acquire the necessary computer hardware and software to support these objectives.

Blind and visually impaired staff members in the Central Office will be able to use the information system resources with the aid of a variety of advanced technological devices including a speech output device, paperless braille display units, braille embosser, character readers, large print printers and large video displays.

The SCCB currently employs a full-time staff of 104 persons. Along with the experience and dedication, the stability of the staff is evidenced by the fact that the average employee has worked with the agency for over 8 years. During fiscal year 1983-1984, 8 new employees were hired. There were 10 resignations, 1 reduction in force and 1 retirement.

On June 30, 1984, Commissioner Maxine Bowles retired as the agency's head. Mrs. Bowles had served as Commissioner since 1977. Mr. Allan C. Mustard, Chairman of the SCCB Board, also retired at the end of the fiscal year.

The Administration maintained its excellent visibility with the community at large statewide. Participation in health fairs, workshops and conventions increased public awareness and greatly enhanced a positive image of the agency and its functions.

A positive working relationship between consumer groups of blind people and the SCCB strengthened the agency's ardent desire to further advance the quality of life for all of South Carolina's blind and visually impaired citizens.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

One of the major concerns of the VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is assisting blind and visually impaired clients with finding employment and achieving financial independence.

Clients have access to a variety of vocational rehabilitation services, including job development and job placement, medical treatment, psychological and vocational evaluation, adjustment to blindness training, vocational training of occupational tools and facilities and a specialized counseling and guidance service.

In their efforts to obtain meaningful employment for their clients, vocational rehabilitation counselors develop an Individual Written Rehabilitation Program (IWRP) with each client that details the services to be provided to assist the client to achieve his or her vocational objective.

Fiscal year 1983-1984 brought a variety of jobs for clients enrolled in the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Job placements were made in the following areas: computer programmer, taxpayer service representative, auto parts salesman, dispatcher, kitchen helper, general laborer, stock clerk, environmental analyst, assembler, cosmetologist, key punch operator, retail sales manager, inventory clerk, thread inspector, braille proofreaders and psychological social worker. A deaf/blind client was placed as a sander in a furniture factory.

Adjustment to blindness services was still very important to the Mobile Outreach Programs across the state this fiscal year. Outreach programs in Greenwood, Laurens, Spartanburg, Greenville, Easley, Florence and Charleston provided outstanding assistance to those clients unable to attend the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center in Columbia.

A project is now underway to provide funding for on-the-job training for clients through the Job Training Partnership Act as part of an agreement between SCCB and the Governor's Office.

The DISABILITY DETERMINATION UNIT of the SCCB processed 589 applications for Social Security Income benefits during fiscal year 1983-1984. Cash benefits were allowed for 40 percent of the applications received. All claims received by the Disability Determination Unit were screened for referral to other departments of the SCCB for possible services.

THE ELLEN BEACH MACK REHABILITATION CENTER

Fiscal year 1983-1984 continued to have the ELLEN BEACH MACK REHABILITATION CENTER (EBMRC) scoring very high in the achievement of projected goals.

An analysis of the EBMRC progress indicated that 54 percent of the clients completing the Center's training program achieved their established goals. 24 percent of the clients entered vocational training, 11 percent entered educational training programs, while 37 percent achieved stable competitive placement.

All available funds were utilized during the fiscal year to provide maximum services associated with the day-to-day operations of the Center and to fulfill necessary contractual obligations.

Staff members of the EBMRC conducted numerous in-service training and consultations for the SCCB staff members and other service organizations outside of the SCCB involved in working with the blind and visually impaired. Staff participation in training seminars and workshops locally and throughout the Southeast during the fiscal year, along with monthly in-service training sessions, contributed to the overall outstanding performance of the Center's staff.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

The BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM (BEP) of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind continues to increase the opportunities for blind individuals to achieve economic independence and gainful employment. An intensive training program stressing the many aspects of merchandising such as inventory control, display and sales promotion, customer service, etc., continued to produce progressive strides for the BEP Program and its participants.

During fiscal year 1983-1984, the state as well as the blind vendors benefited tremendously from the program. The BEP Program generated sales of \$3,517,032. The blind vendors paid \$132,236 in state sales tax. The state's portion of the BEP budget was \$71,560. Thus through state sales tax alone, South Carolina had a 185 percent return on its investment for fiscal year 1983-1984. The state's depressed textile economy did have an adverse effect on the overall Business Enterprise Program during fiscal year 1983-1984. Many of the vending facilities and food service operations in textile plants were affected by plant layoffs, reduced work weeks and plant closings.

Because of passage of the Surface Air Transportation Act, BEP is looking to South Carolina's Interstate Highway System's rest areas and welcome centers as a major opportunity to provide a needed service to travelers and create new job opportunities for blind citizens of South Carolina.

The Vending Facility Program continues to change and grow in many ways. The expansion of vending facilities and the positive performance by South Carolina blind vendors is beginning to eliminate many of the old myths of blind persons and helping change the overall attitude of the sighted public.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

The PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS Department of SCCB, funded entirely by the state, provided maximum services to South Carolinians during fiscal year 1983-1984. Prevention of Blindness caseworkers in the Columbia, Charleston, Conway, Florence and Greenville areas assisted clients with a variety of services. Many of the medical services provided by the department and its assistance in purchasing glasses and visual aids led to the restoration of sight for many clients.

The department sponsored 624 complete eye examinations and 1,117 follow-up examinations. Many of these examinations resulted in requests for surgery or for provisions of visual aids. There were 262 visual aids provided. Diagnostic procedures have greatly increased as a result of major advancements in the field of ophthalmology.

During the fiscal year 1983-1984 74 percent of the budget was expended on hospitalization. Another 19 percent was expended on physicians' fees for surgical services. There was a total of 377 eye surgeries provided by the department.

A highlight during fiscal year 1983-1984 in the Prevention Department occurred on April 1, 1984. This date marked the tenth anniversary of the Mobile Eye Unit, a cooperative effort of the SCCB and the Lions Sight Conservation Association. The van travels the state three days each week screening for visual acuity and glaucoma. There were approximately 8,681 persons screened and referrals for services were made when needed.

The Prevention Department had to discontinue routine services in February 1984 due to budgetary limitations. Only emergency cases were served for the balance of the fiscal year.

SPECIAL SERVICES

The 1983-1984 fiscal year was a continuation of excellent services by the staff members of the SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT. Through professional expertise and a strong commitment to improve the quality of life for blind individuals of all ages across the state, many goals and objectives of the Special Services Department were met. The four major components of the department are Children's Services, Educational Radio for the Blind, the Media Center and Volunteer Services.

A major emphasis was placed on services to multi-handicapped blind children during this fiscal year by the Children's Services Department. The staff conducted a one day in-service training seminar on multi-handicapped children for over 100 participants. A series of small regional conferences were held with service providers from schools, institutions and others serving visually and multi-handicapped individuals.

The diligent work of five Children's Services counselors provided services to approximately 426 children between ages of birth and 16 years. Special activities in addition to guidance and counseling and home-based instruction for pre-schoolers were organized by the staff for the development of self-confidence and independence. Parent workshops dealing with topics of concern to parents of visually handicapped children were also held during the fiscal year.

A seminar for parents of school-age children was held during the fall. Presentations on career planning, parenting and recreation were well received by participants. The tenth Annual Workshop for Parents of preschoolers was a highlight of the spring. Parents of blind and visually impaired preschoolers from across South Carolina were enlightened in many areas by the President of the International Institute for Visually Impaired, 0-7, Inc. The workshop was an opportunity for parents to share their ideas on parenting and to express their ideas, concerns and goals.

A week-long experiential trip for children between the ages of 10 and 16 was organized in the Greenville area. Highlights of the trip included visits to Discovery World, the SCCB Rehabilitation Center in Columbia, and a camping and mountain trip. The experiential trip provided participants an opportunity to master skills such as problem solving, planning, decision making and personal responsibility.

Providing the blind and visually impaired of South Carolina with braille, large print and taped materials is still a primary mission of the MEDIA CENTER. The Center manager coordinates requests for services with volunteers across the country.

Many requests were received during the fiscal year from schools, vocational and recreational facilities and individuals. There were nearly 900 requests for materials to be processed in braille, large print and on tape. In cooperation with the State Department of Education, the Media Center continued the service of reproducing and producing braille textbooks for blind students in the public schools.

The VOLUNTEER SERVICES DEPARTMENT continued to play a vital role in the overall success of many of the programs offered by the SCCB during fiscal year 1983-1984. Volunteers were recruited as readers for the Educational Radio for the Blind, and to assist with braille and large print production in the Media Center. Volunteers have recently begun producing computer braille for client use. The assistance of those volunteers with child care and recreational activities during workshops sponsored by the Children's Services Department during the fiscal year was greatly appreciated.

There are 135 faithful volunteers in the volunteer program who, during the fiscal year, gave 7,086 hours to assist the agency. However, the love, care and benefits that these volunteers gave are immeasurable. Through their efforts, the quality of life for the blind and visually impaired of South Carolina has been further enriched.

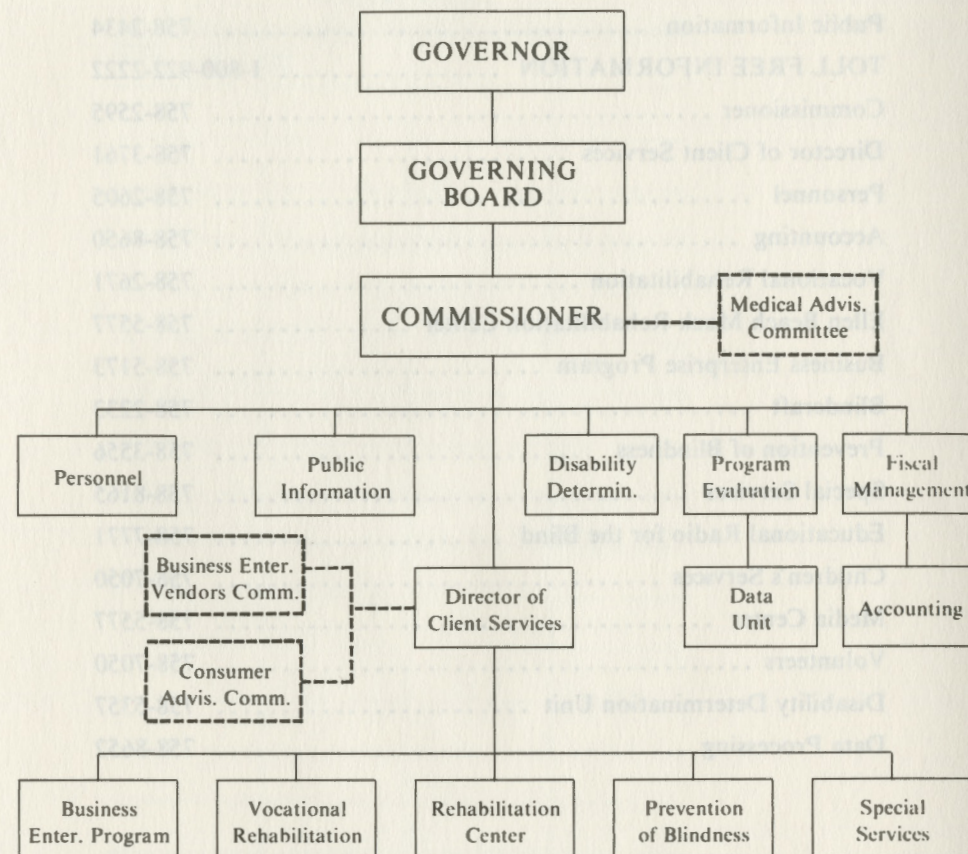
SOURCES OF FUNDS FISCAL YEAR 1983 - 1984

1. Federal Government	\$2,444,240
2. State Government	\$2,319,146
3. Revenue	51,106
Total all funds	\$4,814,492

EXPENDITURES

1. Administration	\$1,181,023
2. Prevention of Blindness	611,295
3. Rehabilitation Services	2,760,814
4. Special Services	261,360
Total Expenditures	\$4,814,492

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND



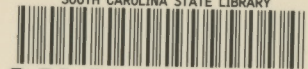
ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY

Public Information	758-2434
TOLL FREE INFORMATION	1-800-922-2222
Commissioner	758-2595
Director of Client Services	758-3761
Personnel	758-2605
Accounting	758-8650
Vocational Rehabilitation	758-2671
Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center	758-5577
Business Enterprise Program	758-5173
Blindcraft	758-2233
Prevention of Blindness	758-3556
Special Services	758-8165
Educational Radio for the Blind	758-7771
Children's Services	758-7050
Media Center	758-5577
Volunteers	758-7050
Disability Determination Unit	758-5357
Data Processing	758-8652

ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY

Public Information	758-2434
TOLL FREE INFORMATION	1-800-932-2323
Commissioner	758-2595
Director of Client Services	758-3761
Personnel	758-2605
Accounting	758-8650
Vocational Rehabilitation	758-2671
Eden Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center	758-5577
Business Enterprise Program	758-5177
Blindcraft	758-2255
Prevention of Blindness	758-3556
Special Services	758-8165
Educational Radio for the Blind	758-7771
Children's Services	758-2650
Medical Center	758-5577
Volunteers	758-7030
Disability Determination Unit	758-5357
Data Processing	758-8652

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY



0 01 01 0049553 9